

## Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 AID-20 OMB-01

/150 W

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R 051454Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0893

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10611

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 10360; (B) USDAO 0576SEP74

AND (C) ADDIS 10463

1. AFCC ANNOUNCED VIA RADIO ETHIOPIA SEPTEMBER 4 ARRESTS OF  
FOLLOWING PERSONS:

- (A) YOHANNES KIDANE-MARIAM, FORMER MINISTER OF STATE  
IN MINISTRY OF PEN
- (B) MG ABEBE WOLDE-SELASSIE, FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER  
OF SIDAMO GOVERNORATE
- (C) LT.COL. YIGEZU ZELEKE, FORMER CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIONS CHIEF IN SIDAMO GOVERNORATE
- (D) BALAMBARAS WORKU DESTA, RESIDENT OF DERASSA  
IN SIDAMO GOVERNORATE
- (E) ABRAHAM ZERFU, CLERK WITH SIDAMO GOVERNORATE

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OFFICE AND

(F) SHIFERAW TUFA, "PRIVATE CITIZEN"

COMMENT: OF INTEREST IS FACT THAT FOUR OF THOSE ARRESTED ARE CONNECTED WITH SIDAMO GOVERNORATE. THIS MAY INDICATE AFCC BEGINNING PROVINCE BY PROVINCE INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE MISDEEDS OF PAST AND PRESENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, ETC. END COMMENT.

2. RADIO ETHIOPIA ALSO BROADCAST "STERN" AFCC WARNING TO INDIVIDUALS AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS (BBC CORRESPONDENT WAS SINGLED OUT) WHOSE REPORTS HAD CLAIMED THAT "CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES" DOMINATED AFCC AND THAT COMMITTEE DID NOT REPRESENT ALL ARMED FORCES, POLICE AND TERRITORIAL ARMY (CF USINFO 051246ZSEP74).

3. SEVERAL INDEPENDENT SOURCES REPORT AFCC DECIDED SEPTEMBER 4 TO PROHIBIT DETAINEES AT FOURTH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS FROM RECEIVING FOOD FROM FAMILIES. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT TO WHICH WE INCLINED GIVE CREDENCE THAT DECISION IS COMBINATION SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES (TO ELIMINATE LENGTHY REQUIREMENT FOR TASTING FOOD HANDED IN LEST IT BE POISONED) AND "COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT" FOLLOWING INDISCRETION BY YILMA SHIBESHI LEADING TO INVESTIGATION WHICH REVEALED THAT ABIY ABEBE HAD EYE GLASSES WITH BUILT IN RADIO AND HAD BEEN MONITORING NEWS REPORTS FOR DETAINEES. STANDARD PRISON RATIONS WHICH DETAINEES NOW TO RECEIVE CONSIST OF \$0.25/DAY FOODS, VIZ., BREAD AND TEA IN MORNING AND INJERA WAT THRICE WEEKLY AFTERNOONS. COMMENT: IF THIS REGIME IS APPLIED FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH, PARTICULARLY OF ELDERLY PRISONERS. END COMMENT.

4. LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, BEGREYES BEGNA, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE WAS REARRESTED WEEKEND OF AUGUST 31 FOR INABILITY TO SUPPLY FERTILIZER TO AIDB (PARA 4 REF A). AFCC ALLOWS BEGREYES DAYTIME FREEDOM IN OFFICE TO PURSUE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FERTILIZER, BUT HE MUST RETURN TO DETENTION IN FOURTH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AT NIGHT.

5. TSEHAI INKU SELASSIE FUNERAL POSED APPARENTLY UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS. DETAILS IN REF B. EARLY AFTERNOON (SEPT. 5) RADIO NEWSCAST CARRIED AFCC REPORT, HOWEVER, ASSERTING THAT GOJJAMIS HAD CONVEYED THEIR SUPPORT TO MILITARY MOVEMENT ON ITS HANDLING  
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OF TSEHAI EPISODE -- SUGGESTING PUBLICITY FOR SUCH "EXPRESSION FO SUPPORT" DEEMED NECESSARY BY AUTHORITIES AT THIS JUNCTURE.

6. REPORTS REACHING US, WHICH WE HAVE YET TO CONFIRM, SUGGEST THAT CAMPAIGN TO ISOLATE EMPEROR AND EXPOSE NOBILITY CONTINUES. NUMBER OF RETAINERS IN PALACE TO BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED. BODYGUARDS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM RESIDENCES PRINCE PAUL AND PRINCESS TENEGNE WORQ ON EITHER SIDE OF EMBASSY COMPOUND AND REPLACED

BY OCCUPANTS' PERSONAL RETAINERS ACTING AS GUARDS. WE HEAR  
THAT PRIMIN IS SEEKING MODERATE/LIMIT THIS CAMPAIGN, AND  
WELL-CONNECTED US NEWSMAN TELLS US THAT NEW CABINET/AFCC  
CONFRONTATION ALREADY WELL ALONG OVER THIS ISSUE, WHICH SEEMS  
LIKELY.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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